

## ***Interactive comment on “Spatial variations in the Kuroshio nutrient transport from the East China Sea to south of Japan” by X. Y. Guo et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #1**

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This manuscript examines the nitrate transport by the absolute geostrophic velocity calculated from the repeated hydrographic data and nitrate concentration measurement through the four transects along the Kuroshio downstream. The understanding the budget of specific element in the region is key for the understanding of the biogeochemical cycles of the element and of the material flux through the ecosystem. From the data and analysis method, I can see how much mathematical work has been done to calculate the nitrate transport. However, I don't see any explanation showing why the authors calculated the nitrate flux except for just getting numerical number for nutrient transport. Thus I recommend that the authors should re-write the manuscript with clear purpose and organization of ideas.

Specific comments

C2276

There are many abbreviations in the abstract, but it is very hard to follow. Make clear the abbreviations.

On page 6738 Line 8 Ryukyu Islands, Ryukyu current was not identified but showed on line 17 Ryukyu current (section OK), but there is no mark on the map about the location of Ryukyu Islands.

On page 6739

Line 18 unit for transport  $170.8 \text{ kmol s}^{-1}$  is different from the transport unit in the abstract line 14  $\text{kmol m}^{-1}$

On page 6744

Line 18 Tokara Strait should be marked on Fig. 1

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